



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

October 3, 2011

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA190-12-1

SUBJECT: ECS – LEAD AGENCY IN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE UNDERTAKING

PURPOSE. To provide guidance on identifying undertakings for which the NRCS will assume Lead Federal Agency status.

EXPIRATION DATE. September 30, 2013

The accompanying flow chart illustrates how Iowa NRCS will determine whether or not it will assume Lead Federal Agency responsibilities for individual undertakings. This is important for ensuring compliance with Federal laws including the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

In summary, NRCS will be the Lead Federal Agency (and take responsibility for technical work required for environmental compliance) only for:

- Those undertakings involving only NRCS programs,
- SWCD-sponsored undertakings funded by another agency if NRCS has determined that the funding agency does not have the ability to deal with environmental issues,
- Undertakings with multiple funding sources in which the NRCS has the largest funding stake (Financial and Technical Assistance) compared to other funding sources, provided the undertaking is not on land controlled by another agency.

In all other cases, NRCS will not assume Lead Federal Agency responsibilities and so will not complete technical or administrative compliance activities. In those cases where NRCS is not the Lead Federal Agency but is providing design assistance, the project sponsor or landowner will obtain permits and/or complete any required consultations. The sponsor or landowner will provide documentation of needed permits or consultation to NRCS prior to NRCS providing final designs, plans, or specifications.

NRCS employees may provide limited preliminary and conceptual assistance prior to receiving confirmation of environmental compliance by the Lead Federal Agency.

Questions may be referred to Richard Rogers, Archeologist, or to Marty Adkins, State Resource Conservationist, at (515) 284-4370.

/s/Richard Sims
State Conservationist

Attachment

F